

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

The 2020 Challenge “Where are We Going?”

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RCRA Cleanup Progress

- Environmental Indicators (2005 GPRA Goals)
- Final Cleanup Goals (2008 GPRA Goals)
- Both focused on the highest priority facilities.

2020 Vision

● “Beyond RCRA: Waste and Materials Management in the Year 2020”

- Jointly developed with states.
- Vision paper states that “by the year 2020, cleanup of existing contamination problems at RCRA-regulated facilities will ... be completed, though some long-term remediation work may still be ongoing.”

The 2020 Challenge

- Marianne Horinko set forth the challenge on May 11, 2004 at the National Corrective Action Conference.
- By 2020, all RCRA facilities with an obligation to clean up will have remedies in place, if needed, and will be trending to clean.

To Achieve the 2020 Challenge ...

- EPA and states will need to come up with a new way of doing business that is focused on achieving environmental results at all facilities by 2020.
- Businesses will need to accept full responsibility and accountability for all their facilities.

To Achieve the 2020 Challenge ...

- Consultants who work at cleanups will need to offer performance-based bids to industry, bids that demonstrate clean, environmentally responsible plans to achieve 2020 goals for all their clients.
- Local governments will need to facilitate even more widespread public participation in local cleanups, so neighborhoods are part of the planning and the vision.

The 2020 Challenge (Finishing Our Work)

- We need an exit strategy for the Corrective Action Program.
 - Program overseers (Congress & OMB) demand it.
 - Communities need it.
 - Private sector wants it.

Implementing the 2020 Challenge

- Cleaning up over 4000 sites with a RCRA corrective action obligation is no small matter.
- The 2020 Challenge forces us to rethink how we implement the corrective action program.
- No single solution or new idea will get us to 2020.

Implementing the 2020 Challenge

- We need to explore innovative, tailored oversight ideas like:
 - Use of third-party site professionals to oversee the cleanup process.
 - Enroll RCRA facilities in streamlined state response programs.
 - Develop an “Oversight Light” model with a few key check-in points.

Implementing the 2020 Challenge

- There are many approaches to improve the RCRA Corrective Action Program, and we look to the states to continue to develop and try new innovations that streamline cleanups.
- We will continue working with the states in developing a comprehensive implementation strategy to get us to 2020.

Developing the 2020 Challenge Implementation Strategy

- Gather and sort the ideas from National Corrective Action Conference.
- Develop a written implementation plan.
- Develop the universe of facilities.
- Develop the desired end state for facilities.
- Develop measures for achieving the 2020 Challenge.

What Can You Do Now?

- Cleanup and update RCRA Info
- Analyze remaining work to be done at these facilities
- Develop a plan of action to address remaining cleanup needs at these facilities

Achieving 2020 Vision

- Under the RCRA statute, companies have an obligation to cleanup their facilities.
- Those of us in government have an obligation to have a credible plan to:
 - Finish the work of RCRA corrective action
 - Give assurance to Congress and OMB
 - Give hope and a timetable to communities waiting for sites to be cleaned up.
- The 2020 Challenge calls in these obligations.